

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A computer-implemented method, comprising:
 - 2 determining whether a first company has executed a non-disclosure agreement;
 - 3 determining whether an applicant is associated with the first company;
 - 4 determining whether the applicant agrees to disclosure terms; and
 - 5 providing the applicant with access to information belonging to a second
 - 6 company.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the information comprises confidential information
- 2 belonging to the second company.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 determining whether the first company is authorized to a program.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the second company is authorized to the program.
- 1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the information is associated with the program.
- 1 6. The method of claim 3, wherein the program comprises a joint-development program in
- 2 which the first and second companies are participants.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 determining whether an owner of a program gives approval for the first company
 - 3 to participate in the program.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 determining whether a field representative gives approval for the first company to
 - 3 participate in a program.

1 9. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a controller to allow participants in a program to exchange information regarding a
3 program when the participants agree to terms in an authorized disclosure letter and when
4 the participants are authorized according to authorization data.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the authorization data comprises data regarding
2 which companies are authorized to the program.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the authorization data comprises data regarding
2 employees associated with the participants.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the authorization data comprises data regarding
2 non-disclosure agreements executed by the participants.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the program comprises a joint-development
2 program in which the participants participate.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the information comprises confidential information
2 belonging to the respective participants.

1 15. A signal-bearing medium comprising instructions, wherein the instructions when read
2 and executed by a processor comprise:

3 displaying an interface screen that allows a user to enter a non-disclosure
4 agreement number;

5 when the non-disclosure agreement number is valid, displaying terms of an
6 authorized disclosure letter; and

7 when the user agrees to the terms, providing the user with access to information
8 belonging to a participant in a program.

1 16. The signal-bearing medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions further comprise:
2 providing an access control interface, wherein the access control interface allows
3 the participant to control access to the information.

1 17. The signal-bearing medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions further comprise:
2 providing a request access interface, wherein the request access interface allows
3 the user to request access to the information.

1 18. The signal-bearing medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions further comprise:
2 providing a display of companies who are participants in the program.

1 19. The signal-bearing medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions further comprise:
2 providing a display of companies authorized to exchange information with the
3 user on a per-program basis.

1 20. The signal-bearing medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions further comprise:
2 providing a display of contact information for the participant in the program.

1 21. The signal-bearing medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions further comprise:
2 managing the information.

1 22. The signal-bearing medium of claim 21, wherein managing the information further
2 comprises at least one of adding, viewing, deleting, and updating the information.

1 23. A server, comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 memory, comprising:
4 an authorized disclosure letter,
5 authorization data, and

6 a controller to execute on the processor to allow participants in a program
7 to exchange information regarding a program when the participants agree to terms
8 in the authorized disclosure letter and when the participants are authorized
9 according to the authorization data.

1 24. The server of claim 23, wherein the controller is further to request permission from a
2 program owner to allow the participants to exchange the information.

1 25. The server of claim 23, wherein the controller is further to request permission from a
2 field representative to allow the participants to exchange the information.

1 26. The server of claim 23, wherein the program is one of a plurality of programs and
2 wherein the controller is further to display a list of participants on a per-program basis.